UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.240/1995/L.13
14 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNITED NATIONS
33rd meeting

# DRAFT REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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## I. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

1. The Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations was established by the General Assembly in its decision 46/472, of 13 April 1992, adopted at the 84th plenary meeting of its forty-sixth session. In that decision, the Assembly also entrusted the Preparatory Committee, consisting of the members of the General Committee and open to the participation of all Member States, with the task of considering and recommending to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session proposals for suitable activities in connection with the observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, on the understanding that its decisions would be taken by consensus.

2. On 8 December 1992, the General Assembly considered the first report of the Preparatory Committee. 1/ In its decision 47/417 of the same date, the Assembly took note of the work of the Preparatory Committee in 1992 and decided that it should continue its work and report to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

3. At the forty-eighth session, on 19 October 1993, the General Assembly considered the second report of the Preparatory Committee. 2/ In its decision 48/406 of the same date, the Assembly took note of the work of the Preparatory Committee in 1993, including the decision that the theme for the commemoration would be "We the Peoples of the United Nations ... United for a Better World" and that an open-ended drafting group would be established to prepare a declaration to be adopted in 1995 to mark the anniversary. Furthermore, the Assembly decided that the Preparatory Committee should continue its work and report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

4. In a letter dated 9 December 1993 addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/48/749), the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee requested that consideration be given to reopening the agenda item of the forty-eighth session of the Assembly relating to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary in order to enable the Assembly to consider additional matters. As a result, the Assembly adopted, on 23 December 1993, resolution 48/215 A, in which it:
(a) approved, on an exceptional basis, the creation of the post of Special Adviser at the Under-Secretary-General level against temporary assistance resources for organizing and coordinating activities related to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations; and
(b) requested the Secretary-General to provide adequate secretariat support for the Preparatory Committee.

5. Later in the forty-eighth session and on the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/215 B of 26 May 1994, in which it decided to convene a special commemorative meeting of the Assembly on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Charter of the United Nations, to be held at United Nations Headquarters from 22 to 24 October 1995. The Assembly also decided that invitations to the meeting would be issued to all Member and observer States at the level of head of State or Government, and that all heads of delegations would be afforded the opportunity to address the special meeting. The Secretary-General was entrusted with sending out the invitations requesting all heads of State or Government of Member and observer States to advise him, as soon as possible, of their

participation and representation and of whether or not they proposed to address the special meeting. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its forty-ninth session on replies received, in order to enable it at that session to recommend to the Assembly at its fiftieth session a precise timetable and agenda for the special commemorative meeting and a suggested timetable for the conduct of the general debate of the fiftieth session.

6. In its report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, 3/ the Preparatory Committee reported that the arrangements mentioned in Assembly resolution 48/215 B for the special commemorative meeting of the Assembly, in addition to applying to all Member and observer States, would also apply to Palestine and other observers, should they so request. In that report, the Preparatory Committee also reported on its review of the development of commemorative programmes and activities being undertaken by the secretariat of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, Member States, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations. In addition, it recommended two draft resolutions, which were subsequently adopted on 9 November 1994 by the Assembly: resolutions 49/11, on the United Nations fiftieth anniversary coin programme, and 49/12, on the work of the Preparatory Committee. In the latter resolution, the Assembly approved the report of the Preparatory Committee, welcomed the commemorative programme being formulated by the secretariat and expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for its efforts to make it a global commemoration. The Assembly also welcomed the continued work of the Preparatory Committee on the draft declaration of the fiftieth anniversary, and decided that the Preparatory Committee should continue its work and report thereon to the Assembly at its fiftieth session. The present report is submitted in response to that decision.

7. Since the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 49/12, the Preparatory Committee has held 15 meetings: in 1994, the 19th and 20th meetings, on 17 November and 1 December; and in 1995, the 21st to 33rd meetings, on 2 and 10 February, 17 and 28 March, 11 April, 17 and 23 May, 7 and 19 June, 18 September, 20 and 21 October and 17 November.

## II. PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

### A. Procedural and organizational arrangements for the meeting

8. Pursuant to resolution 48/215 B, in which the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session on replies received to invitations to participate in, and address, the special commemorative meeting, a document on the status of replies received (A/AC.240/1995/L.2) was submitted to the Preparatory Committee for consideration at its 21st meeting. In that paper it was noted that, as at 27 January 1995, 69 heads of State or Government had indicated their intention to attend and to address the commemorative meeting, and that two Member States and one observer State had indicated that they would send high-level delegations. Three options for the organization of the list of speakers were presented, as follows:

(a) The list of speakers to be opened on a certain date for inscription and the order to be determined strictly in the order in which the delegation inscribed in the list;

(b) The list of speakers to be organized alphabetically, that is, in accordance with the seating arrangement in the General Assembly Hall;

(c) Drawing by lot (on the understanding that heads of State would take precedence at a given meeting, followed by heads of Government).

In addition, it was noted that discussion would be required on extended sessions to accommodate all speakers, a possible limitation of speaking time in view of the number of potential speakers and the relationship between the general debate and the commemorative meeting.

9. Following discussion of document A/AC.240/1995/L.2, the Preparatory Committee agreed that the Chairman would undertake further consultation with regard to the organization of the list of speakers for the special commemorative meeting. These consultations resulted in the submission of a note by the Chairman (A/AC.240/1995/L.3), in which the options and underlying assumptions for the organization of the list of speakers were further elaborated. These options were extensively debated by the Preparatory Committee at its 22nd to 25th meetings. Based on those discussions, a draft resolution on the organization of the list of speakers (A/AC.240/1995/L.5), submitted by the Chairman, was considered at the 26th meeting. A revision of the resolution (A/AC.240/1995/L.5/Rev.1), on which consensus was reached by the Preparatory Committee at its 27th meeting, was subsequently submitted to the General Assembly for appropriate action.

10. On the recommendation of the Preparatory Committee, the General Assembly, on 24 May 1995, adopted resolution 49/12 B, in which it was agreed that the order of the list would be determined in a drawing by which the Secretary-General or his representative would draw one name from a box containing the names of all Member States, observer States and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, participating in the special meeting. That procedure would be repeated until all names had been drawn from the box, thus establishing the order in which participants would be invited to choose one of the six meetings set aside for the commemorative event and to select their speaking slots. Other provisions of the resolution included:

(a) The six meetings would each have 25 speaking slots, with the exception of the afternoon meeting on Tuesday, 24 October, which would have 60 slots;

(b) Heads of State would be accorded first priority, followed by vice-presidents, crown princes/princesses, heads of Government, the highest ranking official of the Holy See and Switzerland, as observer States, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, ministers, permanent representatives and other observers;

(c) The first speaker in the special meeting would be the head of State of the host country;

(d) In the event that the level at which a statement was to be made was subsequently changed, the speaker would be moved to the next available speaking slot in the appropriate category at the same meeting;

(e) Statements should be limited to five minutes, without precluding the circulation of more extensive texts. The full text of all speeches would be published in a bound book.

11. As stipulated in General Assembly resolution 49/12 B, the drawing of the lots took place at the 28th meeting of the Preparatory Committee, on 7 June 1995, resulting in a speakers list for the special commemorative meeting. Given the provision in subparagraph (d) above, there were a number of changes made to the speakers list from 7 June until 1 October, reflecting changes in the level of representation of certain delegations. The final speakers list for the meeting is presented in annex I to the present report.

12. Subsequently, at its 29th meeting, the Preparatory Committee considered the remaining logistical and substantive issues regarding the special commemorative meeting.

## B. Drafting of the declaration

13. At its 4th meeting, the Preparatory Committee established an open-ended drafting group, chaired by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, to prepare a solemn declaration to be adopted in 1995 to mark the observance of the anniversary. In the initial period of 1994, a conceptual approach was agreed upon, namely, that the declaration should address the general public, utilize simple and not grandiose language, be substantive in nature, strive for brevity and reflect a thematic approach. It was also agreed that all decisions by the drafting group should be taken by consensus.

14. Subsequently, a general structure for a draft declaration was agreed to by the drafting group, as reflected in document A/AC.240/1994/WG/2 of 30 March 1994. A document containing possible elements for inclusion in a draft declaration based on the outline, was submitted by the Chairman of the drafting group (A/AC.240/1994/WG/3 of 4 May 1994). Delegations were invited to provide additional texts, as appropriate. The Group of Non-Aligned Countries submitted a proposed draft declaration, contained in document A/AC.240/1994/WG/4 of 31 May 1994.

15. While some discussions took place in the drafting group around documents A/AC.240/1994/WG/3 and A/AC.240/1994/WG/4, no specific agreement was reached. It was therefore decided that a period of reflection and informal consultations would be the most appropriate way to move forward, also to take account of major discussions and conferences planned for 1994 and early 1995.

16. The drafting group resumed its formal discussions at its 9th meeting and has since held 21 meetings, its 10th to 46th, in 1995: on 16 February, 24 and 31 March, 10 April, 16, 18 and 25 May, 6, 14 and 29 June, 20, 25, 27 and 28 July, 2, 3, 4, 29 and 31 August, 1, 7, 8 and 12 September and 3, 13, 19 and 20 October.

17. At its 9th meeting, the drafting group agreed that the Bureau would prepare a draft that would serve as the "single negotiating document" (A/AC.240/1995/WG/1 of 13 February 1995). Subsequently, based on a paragraph-by-paragraph reading and written amendments presented by delegations (see annex II), the first rolling text was produced by the Chairman for the 16th meeting (A/AC.240/1995/WG/6 of 22 May 1995). The drafting group was of the view that A/AC.240/1995/WG/6 reflected substantial progress and decided to continue considering amendments to it. Following the submission of additional written amendments, the Chairman of the drafting group issued rolling text 2 (A/AC.240/1995/WG/10) at its 21st meeting, rolling text 3 (A/AC.240/1995/WG/12) at its 22nd meeting and rolling text 4 (A/AC.240/1995/WG/16) at its 28th meeting.

18. A series of informal meetings were arranged by the Chairman of the drafting group to enable further consultations and for rolling text 4 to be finalized. The result of that process was document A/AC.240/1995/CRP.11/Rev.1, submitted by the Chairman to the Preparatory Committee at its 31st meeting, on 20 October. Extensive discussions were held on the document during that meeting and into the 32nd meeting of the Preparatory Committee, on 21 October. At that meeting the Chairman made the following statement:

> "The Preparatory Committee has been in suspension to enable informal consultations to take place. Those consultations focused on concerns expressed about the right of peoples to take action to resist foreign occupation.
>
> "A considerable number of delegations are of the view that the following sentence, in paragraph 1.3 of the draft declaration, gives expression, inter alia, to that right and recognizes the right of peoples to take legitimate action in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to realize their inalienable right of self-determination.
>
> "Some other delegations were of the view that that sentence needed to be clarified further. I was not able to find a way of reconciling those differences through an amendment of the text of document A/AC.240/1995/CRP.11/Rev.1.
>
> "In these circumstances, I draw particular attention to the facility that is available to all in the event that we agree to adopt this declaration, namely, to make a statement that will be recorded in full in the report of the Preparatory Committee.
>
> "I now propose that this text be adopted and forwarded to the General Assembly with the recommendation that it be adopted by the Assembly at its special commemorative meeting as the 'Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations'."

19. The Preparatory Committee agreed with that recommendation and adopted the draft declaration, after which the following statements were made:

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

"I refer again, as I did in my statement before this Committee yesterday, to the fourth subparagraph of paragraph 1 of this draft declaration (A/AC.240/1995/CRP.11/Rev.1). This subparagraph is good because it does condemn what threatens the security of all States. Foremost among such threats is terrorism, which my country firmly condemns. We also said in our statement that our delegation believes that this subparagraph should be completed in such a way as to differentiate between terrorism, on the one hand, and the right of peoples to resist foreign occupation and colonialism. Now that the Preparatory Committee has adopted this draft declaration, which it is to be hoped will be finally adopted on the occasion of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary, my delegation wishes to place on record that we believe the third subparagraph of paragraph 1 of the draft declaration refers to the legitimate rights of peoples to resist foreign occupation, a right which, in our opinion, cannot be objected to by anyone - this being a right embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, in international law and in the resolutions of the United Nations."

INDIA

"I take the floor not because I have any reservations to express or a declaration to make. I take the floor basically to convey my delegation's happiness that we finally have a declaration that our heads will adopt tnree days hence. In this context, I think I speak not only on behalf of my delegation, but I think I speak on behalf of most delegations present in this room. We thank you for your chairmanship. You have been a pillar of strength. I think its your steadfast perseverance that has ensured that we even have a declaration that we can now commend to our heads of Government and heads of State. It would have been most unfortunate, at least in the view of my delegation, if we had not had a declaration on this occasion. My delegation has always maintained that A/AC.240/1995/CRP.11/Rev.1 is a document worthy of adoption and we will certainly commend it to our head of Government. We thank you for your efforts and we are grateful that we finally have a declaration."

MEXICO

"Like other delegations, we welcome the adoption of this declaration. Similarly, we would like to point out that we accept the text contained in document A/AC.240/1995/CRP.11/Rev.1 in its version in English. The delegation of Mexico, whose official language is Spanish, will submit to the secretariat the purely linguistic changes that are necessary in order to ensure that the Spanish text corresponds in all the words with the declaration that we have adopted in English. In addition, we would simply like to point out that as regards present paragraph 14 in A/AC.240/1995/CRP.11/Rev.1, we would have preferred to use the wording in document A/AC.240/1995/CRP.8, referring to the errors of the past that we must avoid."

JAPAN

"On behalf of my delegation, I would like to echo the previous speakers in their appreciation for your patient chairmanship in bringing this important declaration to life. My delegation is very happy to see the final adoption of this resolution on the occasion of the fiftieth commemorative meeting of the United Nations. We will certainly recommend that the head of my delegation support this declaration for the sake of further strengthening the activities of this Organization. It is the determination of my Government to make a further contribution to the United Nations."

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

"On behalf of the Russian delegation I would like, first of all, to thank you for the huge efforts that you have made so that our work would be successfully completed today. Like many delegations, we welcome the adoption of the draft declaration on the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and we do expect that it will be solemnly adopted during the special session of the General Assembly on this issue. Like the representative of the Mexican delegation, we would like to draw attention to the fact that we have some problems with the Russian text of this declaration. Unfortunately, it differs seriously from the documents that this declaration is abased on - it is sort of a free translation. So we would ask the secretariat to draw the attention of the translators to the fact that certain sections of the declaration were taken from already existing documents and the Russian text should not differ from the text that already exists."

FRANCE

"I have two brief comments to make. First, I agree with the comment made by earlier speakers from Mexico and the Russian Federation. We are happy that we have adopted this draft text in its language versions. That is to say, my delegation would not have been able to adopt a text in English, so we adopted a text in French, even if the version needs some improvements in some respects. In any case, we are very happy to have reached these results this evening. My delegation thanks those delegations, who with you, in recent hours and days, have contributed to the results that have enabled us to show the necessary flexibility to reach agreement. My second comment is simply to express the considerable debt of gratitude we genuinely feel towards you and to your delegation. And I am not just speaking these as words."

NORWAY

"It is only fitting that on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, heads of Government and heads of State adopt a solemn declaration and without it, in a few days, certainly that fact would

have been noticed. My delegation would like to join wholeheartedly with others in the words of appreciation that have been directed to you and we have, for our part, been very thankful for the fairness with which you have conducted our negotiations as well as the motivation you have shown, without which, I think, various points of view could not have been joined and moral authority, in difficult times, be listened to. As well in the ebbs of our work you have pushed forward when that was necessary."

ISRAEL

"First of all I would like to thank you for your efforts in the conduct of this Committee to bring about a declaration. My delegation has been forthcoming and compromising throughout the deliberation of the meetings - from the first meeting until this meeting. But, I must say that we are perplexed by the efforts of some delegations to get this Committee, and to get the General Assembly on the solemn occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, to get the United Nations to legitimize terrorism, and I trust that the great majority of the Members of the United Nations, like ourselves, do not read paragraph 1.3 in this light and do not see the explanation that was put by some to this paragraph as a correct one."

PAKISTAN

"My delegation, from day one, was confident that we would get to where we are today because of your chairmanship. And coming to the language problems, I think the only language that we have adopted in this declaration is the language of compromise, cooperation and flexibility. There is no other language for this declaration. And coming to the point of interpreting paragraph 1.3, as far as the phrase of 'legitimate action' is concerned, I think it clearly states that there is no justifying any unlawful action and every action that is taken is done so in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. I hope there will not be any statements of reservation coming in on the Charter. And peoples' right to resist foreign occupation is always supported by the General Assembly documents that we know."

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

"The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic would like on this occasion to express its appreciation of the efforts exerted by Ambassador Richard Butler, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, and for the consultations he conducted in order to bring the draft declaration to its present form. My delegation would like to place on record its support for the declaration on the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and especially for the explanation put forward by a large number of the Members States in the light of the extensive consultations made by the Chairman on paragraph 1.3 of the declaration, which means, inter alia, the

legitimate rights of peoples to resist foreign occupation. And we would like to reaffirm that Syria consistently condemns terrorism in all its different forms and manifestations and that we distinguish between these acts and the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation, this foreign occupation that should be considered the highest stage of terrorism, because it deprives the oppressed peoples of simple, fundamental and human rights. Before concluding, I would like to associate myself with the other colleagues in thanking you for the efforts you have expended in order to reach this declaration."

20. Other statements in support of the draft declaration were made by Cuba, India, Japan, Portugal, Norway, the United States of America and Egypt.

21. Subsequently, the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations was adopted by the General Assembly by acclamation at its 40th meeting, on 24 October 1995 (resolution 50/6).

## III. OTHER PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

### A. Action by Member and observer States, including the establishment of national committees and the issuance of commemorative stamps and coins

22. In response to the Secretary-General's note verbale to all permanent representatives to the United Nations, national committees continued to be established through the end of 1994 and into 1995. The Preparatory Committee was informed that, as at 10 November 1995, 151 Member or observer States had established national committees. The Member or observer States that established national committees are as follows:

Albania
Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Bhutan
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Canada
Cape Verde
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Djibouti
Dominica
Egypt
El Salvador
Eritrea
Estonia

Fiji
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Latvia
Lebanon
Lesotho
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Mongolia
Morocco
Myanmar
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Saint Lucia
San Marino
Sao Tome and Principe
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Tajikistan
Thailand
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania

United States of America
Vanuatu
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Yugoslavia
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

23. Throughout the year the Preparatory Committee was kept advised of the numerous commemorative activities being organized for the anniversary year by these committees. The Preparatory Committee was pleased to note that many of the activities were directed at reaching and informing the general public, and especially at educating youth about the work of the United Nations. These activities include:

(a) United Nations educational materials being used at schools, universities and institutes all over the world;

(b) Global teach-in programmes planned for October in numerous countries;

(c) Issuance of publications on the United Nations and its role in different spheres;

(d) Numerous conferences, symposia and seminars on the United Nations have taken place in the different regions of the world and still are scheduled to be held throughout the remainder of the year;

(e) Special programmes on the United Nations being aired on the radio and on major television stations. Publication of special sections in newspapers and magazines;

(f) Organization of essay and art competitions on the United Nations theme in schools. Winners from different parts of the world would visit the United Nations;

(g) Exhibitions on the United Nations and its activities being held in every continent;

(h) "Model United Nations" with student participants have taken place and are continuing throughout the year;

(i) National galas and concerts honouring the United Nations and commemorating its anniversary have been or will be held in virtually every Member State;

(j) Sport events have been organized throughout the year around the world;

(k) Several Member States are naming public streets, plazas and parks in honour of the United Nations.

24. In addition to the many activities cited above, numerous Member States decided to honour the United Nations on its fiftieth anniversary with special issues of stamps and coins. In addition to the three special stamp series that

are being issued in 1995 by the United Nations Postal Administration in honour of the fiftieth anniversary, virtually every other postal administration has issued or has noted plans to issue such commemorative stamps. Many of these stamps depict United Nations programmes and activities in the country of issue. Further, over 40 Member States already have agreed to issue legal tender coins honouring the anniversary, pursuant to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/11. In addition to gold and silver coins for collectors, a number of base metal coins will be issued at face value for general circulation. Under the programme, participating Member States donate a royalty to the Trust Fund for the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations on each special proof or uncirculated coin sold to collectors. These royalties are being used to support educational and communications activities about the work of the United Nations.

25. In addition to supporting Member States with education and information materials, the secretariat of the fiftieth anniversary has worked with many cities in the development of appropriate commemorations. Events in June 1995 in San Francisco to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter included a myriad of events. Geneva, New York and Vienna also are undertaking major commemorations during the year, including concerts, art exhibits, symposia and other cultural events.

## B. Global projects undertaken by the secretariat of the fiftieth anniversary

26. While supporting the Member States and cities in preparation for the fiftieth anniversary celebrations, and providing substantive and technical support to the Preparatory Committee, the secretariat continued to develop and implement a global commemorative programme of activities and products. At all its meetings in 1995, the Preparatory Committee was briefed on these activities, which enabled them to provide the necessary guidance and input to the secretariat. The goals identified by the secretariat and endorsed by the Preparatory Committee for the anniversary had been to promote a more balanced image of the United Nations, to enlarge its constituency of support, especially among youth and non-traditional audiences, to improve world-wide education about the work of the Organization and to mobilize public support in favour of the United Nations to position it to meet ever-growing demands. Programme development responded to these objectives by developing and implementing projects in key programme areas, among which education and communication have been given priority.

27. During the initial stages of preparations in 1993 and 1994, several members of the Preparatory Committee had stressed the need to accord the highest priority to reaching youth and the general public. Among the most important global youth projects undertaken by the secretariat are:

(a) The promotion of a global teach-in on the United Nations, in which the objective is to have all schools designate time around 24 October to teach about the United Nations, has been publicized. Teachers have been encouraged to concentrate on world affairs and the role of the United Nations for a week or a month in October 1995, with the hope that it will become a part of teaching plans every year to mark United Nations Day;

(b) Educational kits for teachers on the United Nations and its work were developed for three school levels - primary, intermediate and secondary - in all six official languages. The kits contain activity units that focus on such global issues as migration, pollution, health and peace, within subject-matters ranging from history and literature to science and mathematics. Substantial resources have been devoted to providing copies of these materials through United Nations offices in all Member States, especially in developing countries, and have been made available for translation of these materials into other languages. Local educational projects, including classroom posters, also have been funded;

(c) A passport to the future was also initiated to involve younger children in thinking about cooperation and community service. It was designed to sign on millions of young persons between the ages of 7 and 14 years as "global citizens" by having them pledge to carry out a number of volunteer activities to make their world a better place. The passport encourages them to demonstrate their concern for a better future by becoming involved in some of the world's most pressing challenges - human rights, development and the environment - starting in their local community;

(d) Young people from around the world submitted contributions to a book about the United Nations, A World In Our Hands, written, illustrated and edited by young people;

(e) A world youth leadership training summit focusing on the rights and responsibilities of youth was held at Headquarters in late August 1995, bringing together 200 young people from around the world and encouraging them to be proactive in the future;

(f) The secretariat also has encouraged and provided award medals for numerous international and national school competitions about the United Nations.

28. Fiftieth anniversary global communications activities developed by the secretariat have included:

(a) Print, audio and video campaigns for media, exhibits, conferences, film and television programming. The international public service announcement campaign, in the six official languages, was designed to inform the public of the many achievements of the United Nations system, in the areas of democratization, decolonization, women and development, health, refugees, peace-keeping, environment and food security. These materials have been distributed to United Nations offices world-wide and to broadcasters and publishers in all Member States;

(b) A multimedia exhibit provided to headquarters and regional offices, and to headquarters of specialized agencies. The exhibit uses CD interactive technology and demonstrates the interdependence of the global community by focusing on the history of the Organization and on its major areas of endeavour;

(c) Fiftieth anniversary information sites on the Internet and related on-line services (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Gopher, America On-Line, CompuServe and The Microsoft Network);

(d) Publications, including a pictorial history of the United Nations - Visions - fifty years of the United Nations - a newsletter, press kits, an informational brochure, notes for speakers and an educational wall chart. These materials have been distributed widely to the international news media, national committees, United Nations information centres and field offices, permanent missions to the United Nations, United Nations associations, academic groups and the general public.

## C. Activities within the United Nations system

29. In its 1993 report, 2/ the Preparatory Committee had agreed that within the context of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary, an extraordinary opportunity existed to highlight the mutually reinforcing goals of the United Nations and its sister organizations. The Preparatory Committee expressed its continuing interest in that important aspect of the commemoration and requested that it be kept informed of further developments. The Preparatory Committee was advised that the Administrative Committee on Coordination, at its 1994 spring session held at Geneva, had further considered these issues, including, increasing system-wide participation in the fiftieth anniversary and consolidating the messages that the Organization would direct towards the general public during the critical year 1995. In addition, and in parallel with the Administrative Committee on Coordination session in February 1995, a Forum on the Future of the United Nations had been convened at Vienna with the participation of all Administrative Committee members and a number of distinguished personalities who had been leading independent reviews on ways to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system to meet the major challenges ahead.

30. The Preparatory Committee was informed that since its last report, cooperative activities between the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system had taken a more operational turn - focusing on the preparation of projects that highlight the work of the system. Since in effect the information being disseminated by the secretariat is information regarding the work of the United Nations system, the organizations were contacted for inputs such as slides, video footage, facts, for global projects on the fiftieth anniversary, such as the multimedia exhibit, the youth leadership training summit, the book A World in Our Hands, and so on. There are in addition specific joint projects being undertaken with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) regarding the distribution of educational materials, the promotion of the global teach-in, the organization of youth encounters and Design 21. Cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for the publication of results of discussions with non-governmental and private organizations related to a Global Assembly on Food Security has also been undertaken. In addition, UNDP had contributed significantly to the dissemination of information on the fiftieth anniversary through the Internet by arranging for the use of the Gopher. Other

organizations' databases have since also pointed to the Gopher, thus further widening dissemination.

31. The Preparatory Committee was also informed that the United Nations field network, and the regional commissions, had been mobilized towards the commemorative effort. Resident coordinators, directors of the United Nations information centres and the executive secretaries of the commissions were taking a very active part in the distribution of the information and education material on the fiftieth anniversary.

32. The Preparatory Committee was also informed of the continued efforts to involve the staff of the United Nations system in the anniversary preparations and events. In numerous countries, staff have supported local organizers of commemorative activities. In New York, Geneva and Vienna, the staff committees have organized programmes in honour of the anniversary, including a poll of staff views, literary competitions, photo exhibits and cultural events.

### D. Activities of non-governmental organizations

33. United Nations associations and other non-governmental organizations have supported the fiftieth anniversary effort to broaden public understanding of the work and continued relevance of the United Nations through, among other things, education programmes, conferences, activities aimed at young people, such as art projects, essay competitions and model United Nations programmes. In addition, many of these organizations, especially the United Nations associations, actively participate as members of national committees established for the fiftieth anniversary to arrange commemorative programmes within the Member States.

34. In the context of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly there are plans to organize a one-day non-governmental organization programme in mid-October to examine the role of the organizations and the United Nations and its future in the twenty-first century, building on the various initiatives, studies and reports issued in 1995 dealing with civil society and the United Nations. The programme would be coordinated by the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council together with the Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations Associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information.

## IV. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

35. In 1993, the Preparatory Committee was informed that the financial situation of the Organization precluded making funds from the regular budget available for financing fiftieth anniversary commemorative programmes and events. The Secretary-General had therefore established a Trust Fund for the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations for that purpose and had urged the Member States to support that initiative. A number of Member States have made contributions and many have provided resources to their national committees organizing anniversary commemorations.

36. Support was also sought from the private sector, including a limited number of global sponsors and international licensees. Sufficient resources to develop core global activities were obtained from three global sponsors and several major project sponsors. A limited number of international licensees also provided substantial funds and distribution of messages about the work of the Organization. The Trust Fund is expected to continue to receive revenue from some of the licensees, in particular with respect to commemorative coins and publications.

37. The Preparatory Committee noted the positive impact that the Trust Fund has had in supporting not only global projects, but also national educational and communications initiatives about the work of the Organization.

## V. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

38. The Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

### Work of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations,

1. Approves the report of the Preparatory Committee and takes note with deep appreciation of its work in 1995;

2. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States, corporations and individuals which have contributed to the Trust Fund for the Fiftieth Anniversary;

3. Also expresses its appreciation to the innumerable non-governmental organizations and other organizations around the world that have supported the goals of the anniversary;

4. Further expresses its appreciation to the secretariat of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations for the series of commemorative programmes and projects it has undertaken and coordinated and for its efforts to involve national committees, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations system and staff in the global commemoration of the anniversary.

### Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 48 (A/47/48).

2/ Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 48 (A/48/48).

3/ Ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 48 (A/49/48).

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